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in accounts, no recognition is given to the development of uniform accounting or to such statistics as those for stock-turn and credit ratios. The explanation of the advantages in basing expense percentages on sales instead of on cost is weak. The use of daily comparisons for practical administrative purposes in many businesses is unduly belittled. Over one half the book is given over to an elementary explanation of the preparation of charts. Despite several good features in the chapters on charts, the dangers of using a base-line other than zero are not adequately recognized, and in explaining the use of circular area charts it is stated that the areas of two circles are proportional to their radii! The book is hardly safe for beginners, and it will provide few new ideas for experienced statisticians.

MELVIN T. COPELAND

Report on the Food Supply of the Port of New York District. Report of the Port of New York Authority. Albany: J. B. Lyon Co. February, 1922. 74 pp.

This report fills a long-felt want of statisticians, economists, and public marketing officials, all of whom have on various occasions found themselves handicapped because they were unable to find in any one place the information contained in this pamphlet. The Port of New York Authority has collected in this report all available information regarding the annual and seasonal receipts of the most important commodities making up the food supply of the New York District.

For the purpose of ready reference a table on page 11 gives the calculated net receipts of those commodities which represent probably more than 90 per cent of the food consumed in the Port District annually. The extensiveness of this report may be indicated by listing the main groups of commodities for which general data as to receipts and sources of supplies are given in Section II. The groups are covered in the following order: milk and dairy products, flour and grains, meat and meat provisions, vegetables, fruits, fish, sugar, coffee, tea, dried fruits, dried beans and peas, nuts, vegetable oils and compounds, and lard.

A snapshot of the storage of foods within the Port District is presented in Section IV, which brings out the striking fact that the New York and New Jersey state authorities do not receive uniform reports on foods in cold storage. In fact, the statistics showing the New Jersey holdings were so meager that no total for cold storage holdings in the Port of New York District could be given. The New York State Department of Farms and Markets was able to give details on the various kinds of meats and poultry, whereas the New Jersey authorities merely classified meats and poultry broadly. The table on cold storage holdings clearly shows the need for a better coördination of records of supplies of foodstuffs on hand.

On looking into the holdings of food in dry storage warehouses, the Port Authority found that no agency, either public or private, kept records of these holdings. In fact, no public agency at the time this survey was started had even an up-to-date list of dry storage food-warehouses.

The statistician and the student of food-marketing problems will find it most profitable to devote their time and attention to a study of Appendix A, where they will find data on which the statements in Section II were based. Table I

in Appendix A (page 41) shows a somewhat different attitude in the analysis of the same commodities represented on page 11. In one place butter and cheese are grouped with milk under "Milk and Dairy Products;" in another, butter and cheese stand alone. In the table on page 11, live poultry and dressed poultry are placed under "Eggs and Poultry," and in Table I of the Appendix, live poultry and dressed poultry are placed under "Meats." Then, very strangely, after having made entirely new groupings in Table I, all of the remaining tables in the Appendix follow the order of the table on page 11.

The first table in the Appendix shows the "receipts," "deductions for outbound shipments, exports, and storage," and "calculated net receipts." Apart from being made to conform with the arrangements of the table in Section II, this table could have been improved had the exact amount of each deduction been shown in separate columns instead of having been lumped in one column. There should have been columns for exports, outbound domestic shipments, and net in or out of storage movements. Wherever possible, the domestic receipts should have been given separately from the foreign imports.

The tables in the remainder of Appendix A give the receipts of most commodities by months. Receipts of fruits, vegetables, butter, cheese and eggs are further classified by the states from which they are received.

Although the report mentions the names of the organizations from which the receipts of the various commodities were compiled, it is to be regretted that the footnotes to the tables as to sources are not more numerous. Some of the data in the Appendix were checked by the reviewer with statistics that he compiled independently for use by his classes in economics. In most cases it was found that the two sets of figures correspond closely. The reviewer, however, differs with the dressed poultry figures. Reference to the general statement of sources shows that whereas the live poultry figures were secured from the Urner-Barry Co., the dressed poultry figures were secured from the United States Bureau of Markets. A careful study of these receipts and a comparison of the Urner-Barry and the government figures over several years have convinced the reviewer that the Urner-Barry figures are the more accurate, and that the dressed poultry figures—stated at 101,292,133 pounds in this report—are about 25,000,000 pounds too small.

The food requirements for the Port District population were determined in another way in Appendix B and summarized in Section II. Here some six studies on food budgets were reduced to a common denominator and applied to the Port District population, which was taken to be 8,000,000 and reduced to 6,240,000 "equivalent adult males." In the determination of this latter figure, application of the Sydenstricker and King "fammain scale" (explained in the September, 1921, issue of this Journal) was made to New York City. A comparison of the selected estimate of the total annual consumption of certain foodstuffs with the calculated net foodstuffs shows close approximation.

In conclusion it may be stated that the report of the Port Authority is a distinct contribution to the literature on food distribution in the Port of New York. In addition to providing the first authoritative publication on the receipts of foods in New York, the report shows the need of a more effective method of

gathering and assembling current food information in a readily available form. The present study is in part accidental in that its original purpose was to form a basis for meeting the situation growing out of the threatened railroad strike last October. The collection of these data was the work of a committee of the various governmental agencies concerned with food distribution within the Port District, of which Herschel H. Jones was chairman. As the Port Authority is not likely to publish under normal conditions similar reports in the future, the trade and the public food-marketing bodies should work out a plan for joint future activities in this direction.

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